

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 15-21, 23 and 25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 15 are amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 15 can be found at least in Figure 12, and the corresponding description in the specification. No new matter is added.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Fidler at the interview held November 6, 2008, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

I. Claims 5, 6 and 18 Satisfy Formal Requirements

Claims 5, 6 and 18 are objected to for informalities. Claims 5, 6 and 18 were amended in response to the objection in the October 22, 2008 Amendment. Thus, claims 5, 6 and 18 satisfy formal requirements. Withdrawal of the objection is thus respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

A. Rejection of Claims 1-7, 15-20, 22 and 24

Claims 1-7, 15-20, 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,695,439 to Takahashi (Takahashi '439) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,512,793 to Takeuchi et al. (Takeuchi). The rejection of canceled claims 22 and 24 is moot, and the rejection of claims 1-7 and 15-20 is respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the personal interview, neither of the applied references teaches or renders obvious "the dummy electrodes being spaced from an outermost one of the individual electrodes and positioned along each of the two intersecting arrangement directions, in a respective outward direction from the plurality of individual electrodes," as recited in independent claim 1, and "the sintered dummy electrodes being spaced from an outermost one of the individual electrodes and positioned along each of the two intersecting

arrangement directions, in a respective outward direction from the plurality of individual electrodes," as recited in independent claim 15.

Thus, for at least these reasons, independent claims 1 and 15 are patentable over Takahashi '439 and Takeuchi. Further, claims 2-7 and 16-20, which depend from claims 1 and 15, are also patentable over Takahashi '439 and Takeuchi for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

B. Rejection of Claims 8 and 23

Claims 8 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,266,964 to Takahashi et al. (Takahashi '964) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,174,051 B1 to Sakaida (Sakaida '051). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the personal interview, neither of the applied references teaches or renders obvious the features of claim 8.

Thus, for at least these reasons, claim 8 is patentable over Takahashi '964 and Sakaida '051. Further, claim 23, which depends from claim 8, is also patentable over Takahashi '964 and Sakaida '051, for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features it recites. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

C. Rejection of Claims 21 and 25

Claims 21 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,979,077 B2 to Sakaida (Sakaida '077) in view of Takeuchi. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the personal interview, neither of the applied references teaches or renders obvious the features of claim 21.

Thus, for at least these reasons, independent claim 21 is patentable over Sakaida '077 and Takeuchi. Further, claim 25, which depends from claim 21, is also patentable over

Sakaida '077 and Takeuchi for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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